



**Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board
Recommendation 2004-11**

**Recommendation for Public Involvement During the
Independent Validation and Verification of Rocky Flats Cleanup**

Approved December 2, 2004

Statement of Purpose: Starting early in 2005, the Department of Energy (DOE) will conduct an independent validation and verification (IVV) of Rocky Flats cleanup. An independent contractor, the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), will conduct the IVV for DOE.

The Board recommends that the following public involvement strategy for the IVV be implemented. The strategy uses a tiered approach based on anticipated varying levels of public stakeholder interest in and involvement with the IVV, and the contractor, ORISE. All three levels of participation are intended for implementation.

Level 1 Public Participation:

This level of public participation attempts to capture the broadest range of public interaction and involvement with the IVV. Public involvement tools and activities include the following.

1) Public Meetings:

A minimum of two public meetings will be held during the conduct of the IVV. These meetings will be held in the evening to accommodate the work schedules of interested community members. It is recommended that one meeting be held at the inception of the IVV with the purpose of explaining the scope of work to be performed. This initial meeting also will allow members of the public to provide feedback on the scope of work and to answer any questions or concerns they may have. Presenters at the meeting will include representatives from ORISE, the Department of Energy, and others as necessary. A second meeting will be held at the conclusion of the IVV to present and explain the findings. Based on the community's interest, consideration will be given to holding one or more additional meetings as the IVV progresses. These additional meetings would serve to provide an update on the IVV progress.

Timing of the meetings will coincide with the availability of the ORISE contractors. It is important that adequate meeting notice be given (at least two weeks). DOE should consider paid advertisements in the community weeklies (Sentinels, Golden Transcript, etc.) to provide meeting notification. Meeting notice will also be given using the DOE community advisory. A widely distributed press release will also be developed.

2) Information Management:

The Department of Energy will establish a section on its website at Rocky Flats to provide information about the project. The website will provide meeting notices and agendas, meeting summaries, project reports, and other relevant project information.

A contact person will be named and listed for those who might have questions or desire additional information.

DOE will work with other interested agencies and organizations to provide a link on their websites to the IVV project website.

A mailing list will be established for those attending meetings and others expressing interest in the project. Those on the list will receive meeting notices, project updates, reports, and other project information as appropriate.

Information sheets and other explanatory information will be developed and distributed to those attending the public meetings and for others expressing an interest in the project. This same information can be made available on the project website.

Level 2 Public Participation:

For some stakeholders, more active involvement in the IVV process is desirable. Using the model of the Actinide Migration Evaluation, public work sessions will be scheduled to coincide with site visits by the ORISE team. These sessions can be scheduled during working hours, but preferably later in the day, to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to interact with the ORISE staff. During these sessions, project updates can be given and discussion with the ORISE personnel encouraged.

Level 3 Public Participation:

Organizations such as the Citizens Advisory Board and the Coalition of Local Governments will appoint or hire representatives for their organizations to directly oversee the conduct of the IVV. These representatives intend to establish direct contact with the ORISE personnel and participate in various aspects of the IVV as deemed appropriate. They will review and comment on written materials as needed. These representatives will provide a direct link to their respective organizations providing updates as the IVV progresses. Consideration will be given to allowing these individuals to provide updates or presentations as part of the Level 1 and Level 2 public meetings and work sessions. If warranted, written reports or other materials developed by these representatives will be made available to meeting participants and on the project website.

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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